



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



National Cemetery Administration

**Advisory Committee on Operation Iraqi Freedom
and Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF)
Veterans and Families**

May 14, 2007

**William F. Tuerk
Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs**



Mission

**The National Cemetery Administration
honors veterans with final resting
places in national shrines and with
lasting tributes that commemorate
their service to our Nation.**

Responsibilities

- **Provide burial space for veterans and maintain cemeteries as National Shrines**
- **Administer the Federal grants program for construction of state veterans cemeteries**
- **Furnish headstones and markers**
- **Administer the Presidential Memorial Certificate Program**

National Cemetery Administration

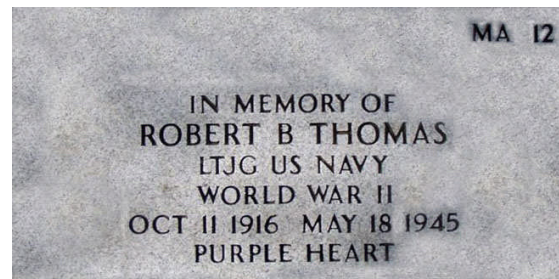
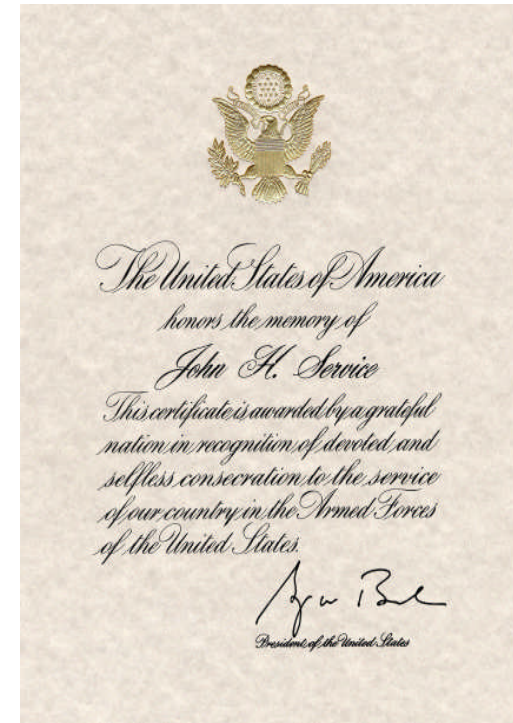
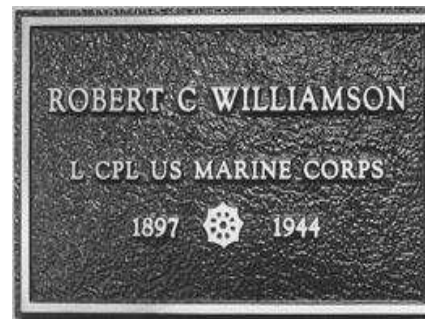
- **1,527 FTE**
- **125 national cemeteries**
- **2.8 million gravesites**
- **96,797 interments (FY 2006)**

National Cemetery Administration

FY 2006 – Memorial Programs



**336,266 Headstones
and Markers Provided**

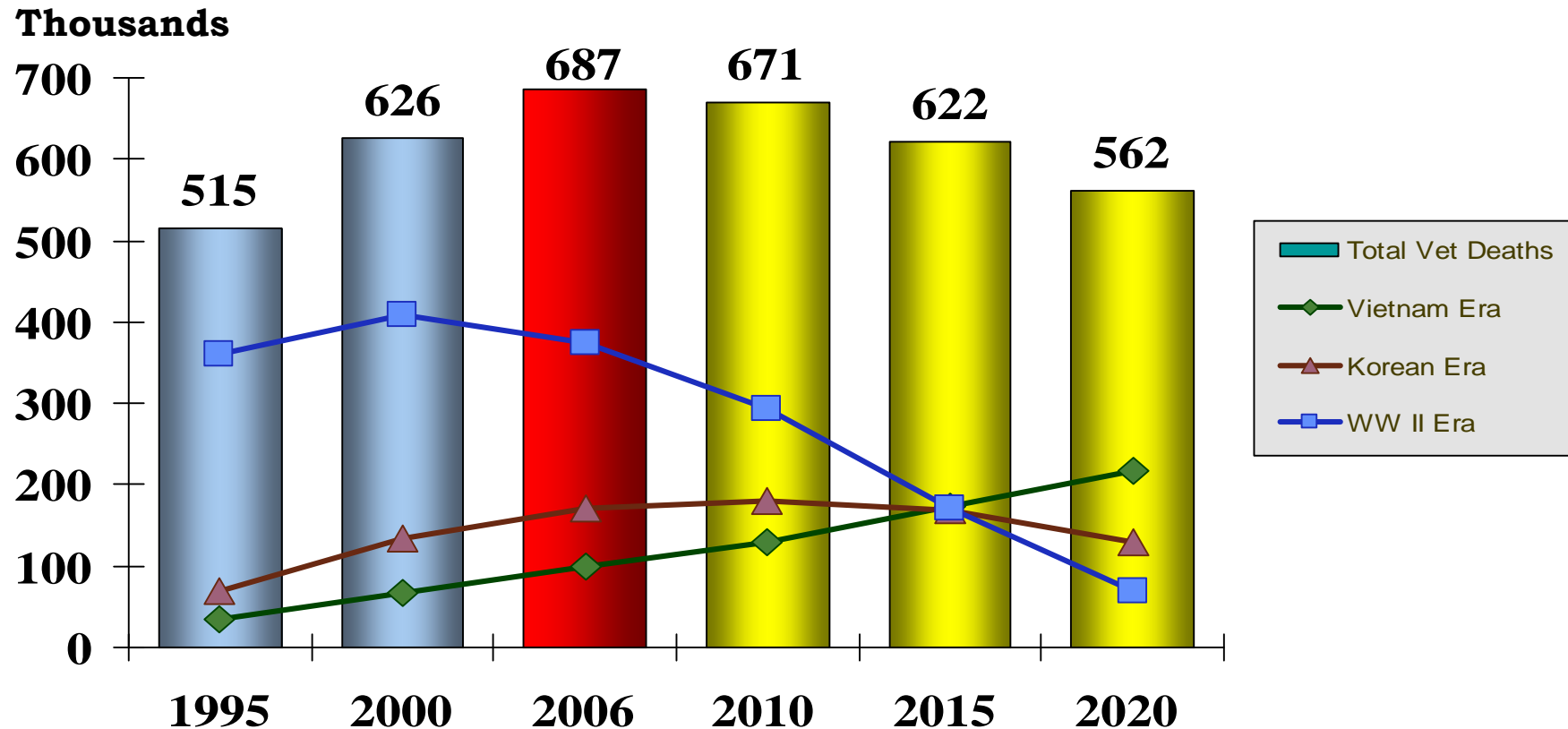


**405,538 Presidential
Memorial Certificates**

NCA Budget Request - FY 08

• Operations and Maintenance	\$167 Million
• Headstones, Markers, Allowances	\$ 41 Million
• Graveliners, OBR Reimbursements	\$ 77 Million
• State Cemetery Grants Program	\$ 32 Million
• Major Construction	\$ 167 Million
• <u>Minor Construction</u>	<u>\$ 24 Million</u>
NCA Total Programs	\$ 508 Million

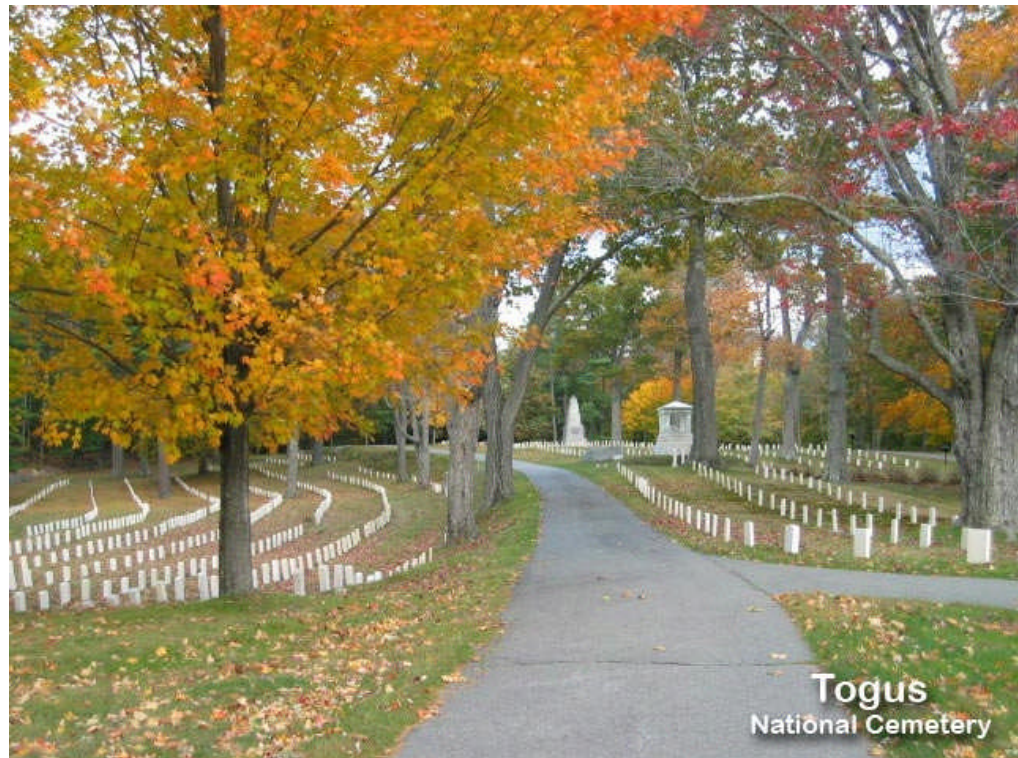
Projected Veteran Deaths



<u>War Period</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Living Veterans</u>	<u>Median Age</u>
WW I	4,735,000	<10	105
WW II	16,113,000	3,242,000	83
Korean Conflict	5,720,000	3,086,000	75
Vietnam	8,744,000	7,287,000	59
Gulf War Era	4,647,000	4,297,000	36

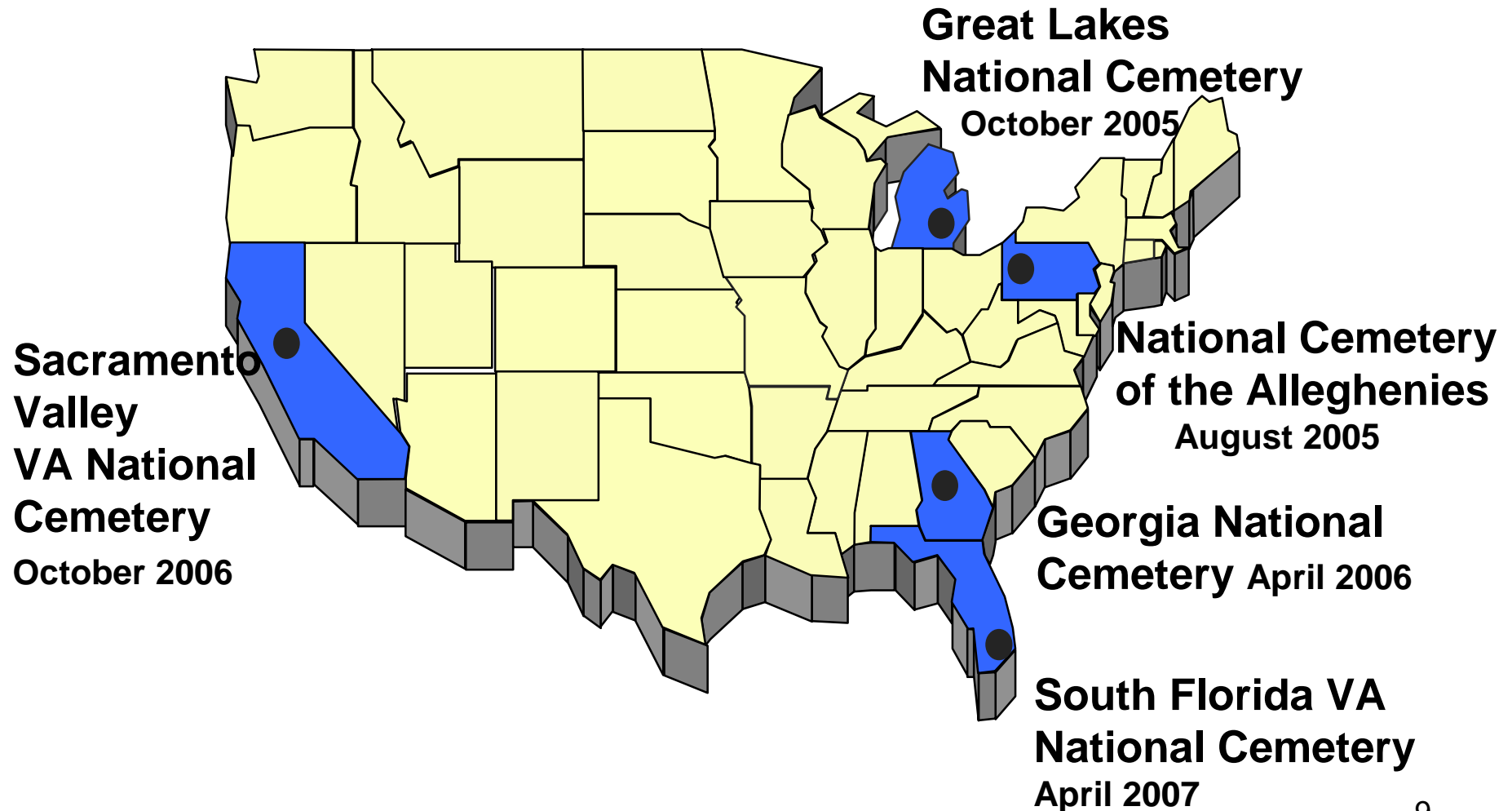
NCA Strategy to Meet Burial Needs of Veterans

- Develop new cemeteries
- Extend the service life of existing cemeteries
- Encourage states to build veterans cemeteries



New National Cemeteries

P.L. 106-117, Veterans Millennium Health Care and
Benefits Act

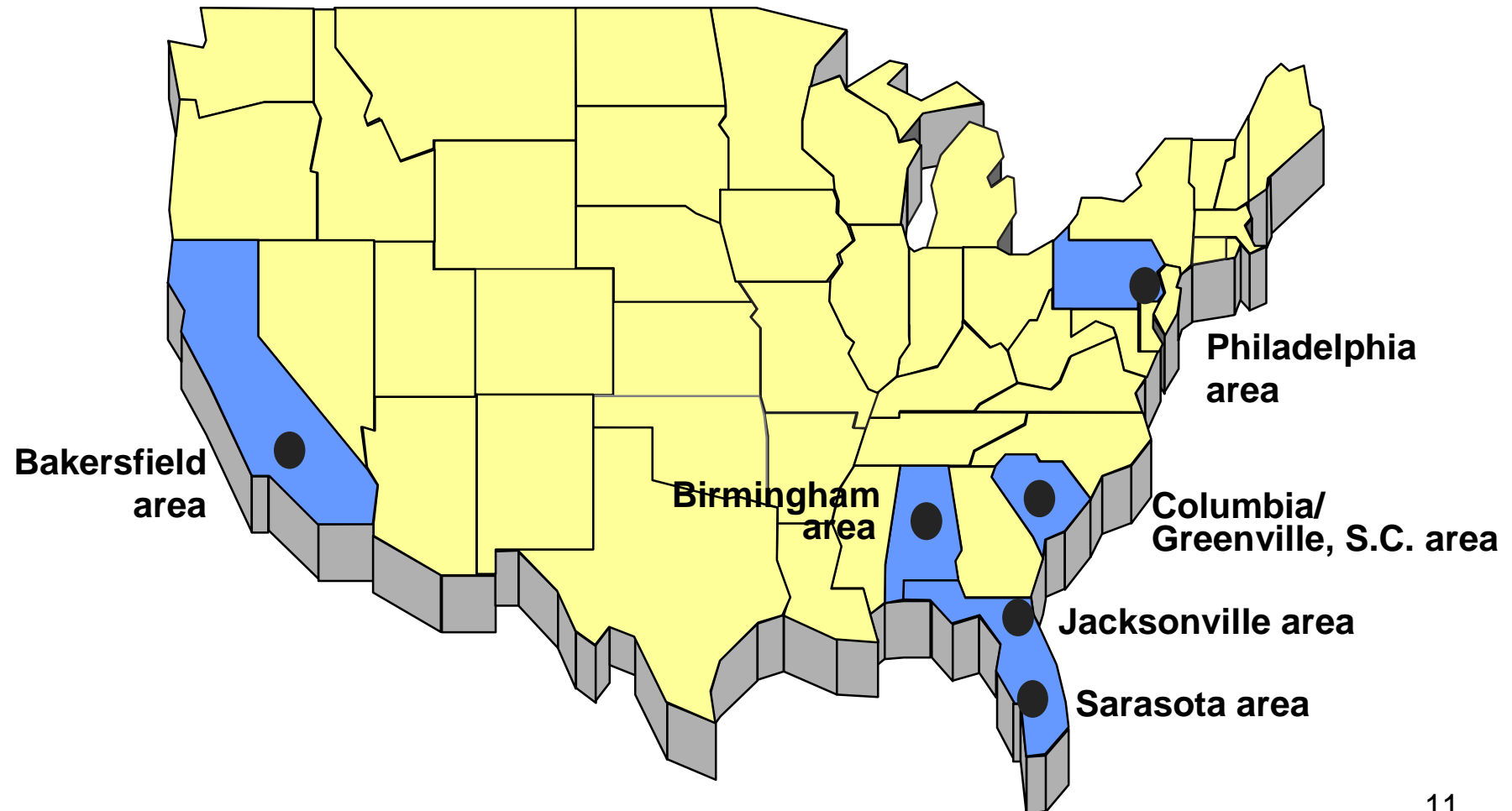


South Florida VA National Cemetery



Future National Cemeteries

P.L. 108-109, National Cemetery Expansion Act of 2003



National Cemetery Administration

Gravesite Expansion Construction Projects

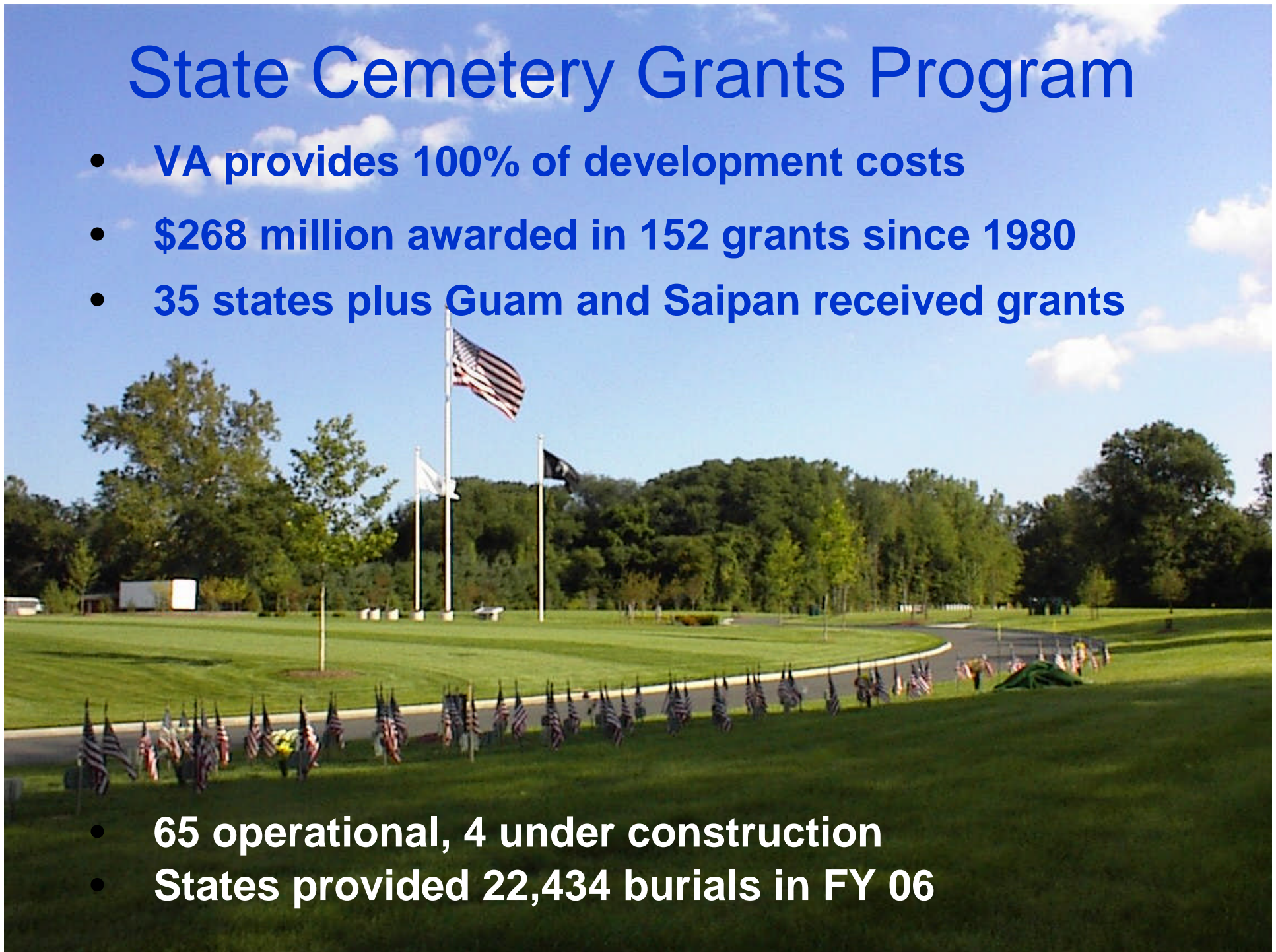
FY08 Budget Request

CEMETERY	FY08 PROJECTS	COST ESTIMATE
Fort Sam Houston, TX	Gravesite Expansion & Roads (crypts & columbaria)	\$29,400,000
Fort Smith, AR	Develop Gravesites & Cemetery Expansion	\$2,500,000
NMCA, AZ	Install 8,100 Pre-placed Crypts, Sec 55, 56 & 57	\$2,000,000
Los Angeles, CA	Cloister Memorial Wall Expansion	\$450,000
Fort Logan, CO	Construct 7,500 Niche Columbaria	\$3,000,000
Puerto Rico, PR	Gravesite Expansion/Crypts	\$3,000,000
Black Hills, SD	Gravesite Expansion & Roads (crypts & columbaria)	\$467,000
Abraham Lincoln, IL	Install 3,000 Columbaria Niches	\$1,816,000
Roseburg, OR	Construct 3,000-Niche Columbaria & Site Improvements	\$3,000,000
Fort Gibson, OK	Gravesite Expansion & Maintenance Building	\$4,800,000

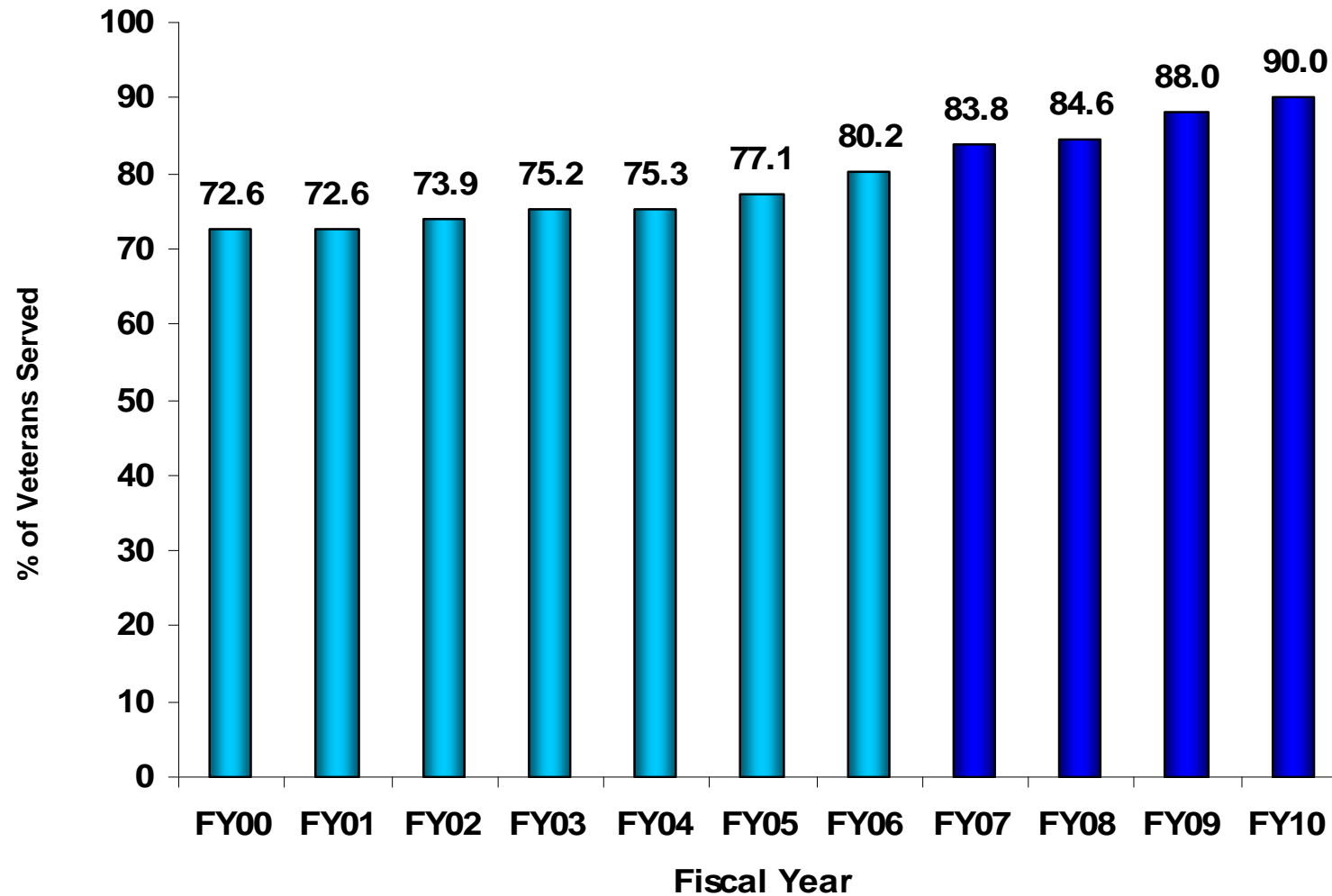
State Cemetery Grants Program

- VA provides 100% of development costs
- \$268 million awarded in 152 grants since 1980
- 35 states plus Guam and Saipan received grants

- 65 operational, 4 under construction
- States provided 22,434 burials in FY 06

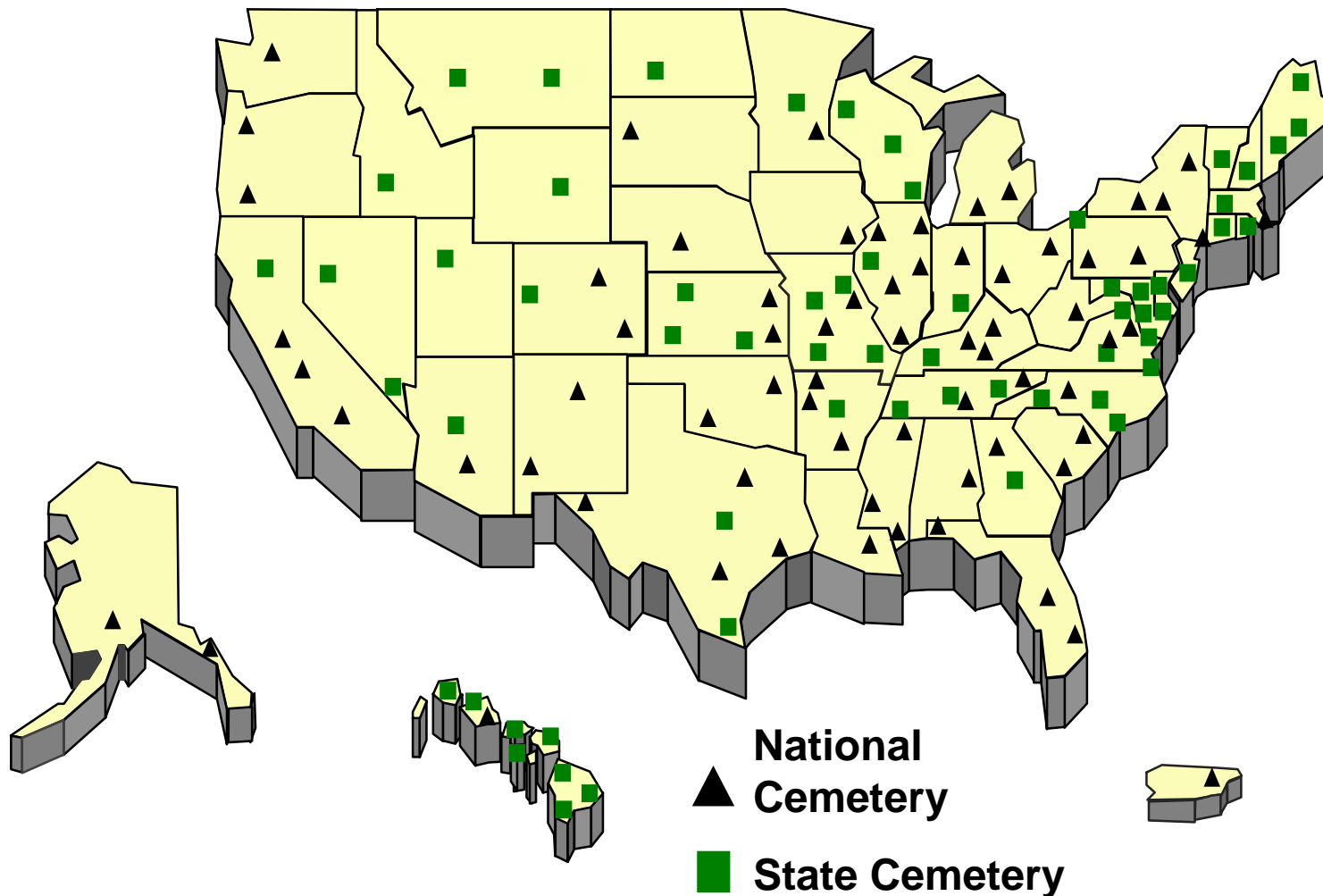


Meeting Burial Needs – Percent of Veteran Population Served*



***within 75 miles of a national or state veterans cemetery**

Open National and State Cemeteries



National Shrine Commitment



An initiative to maintain the appearance of VA cemeteries in a manner befitting their status as National Shrines.

National Shrine Commitment

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, TX



Before



After

Xeriscape at VA National Cemeteries



National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona



Fort Bliss National Cemetery, TX

Burial with dignity in a National Shrine



NCA will provide a lasting tribute to our Nation's veterans by being mission driven, results oriented and customer focused.

